



The Creation of the World.



Within the Compass of six Days,
God did the Heavens compose,
The Fire, the Air, the Earth & Seas,
All which his Power shows.

TOMMY TRIMMER'S

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT,

Ch. 800/25.
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BEASTS, } } FISHES,
REPTILES, } } BIRDS.

An entire new Edition never before
Published.

Adorned with CUTS entirely new.

L O N D O N :

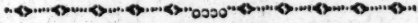
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[Price TWO PENCE.]





INTRODUCTION.



TOMMY Trimmer was the son of Mr. Trimmer, a wealthy furrier and skin merchant at Bristol: Tommy, was scarcely six years old, when he would ask his papa about the furs, what beast they were, and from whence they came; which induced Mr. Trimmer to buy one of the Golden Present's, printed at No. 198, Upper Thames Street, London; which pleased Tommy so, that he wished it contained twice as much, he would learn it by heart; upon which, his papa said he should go to Dr. Brushum,

Professor of Natural History, for half a year, which pleased Tommy exceedingly ; so he was sent the next week. Before he went, he took his leave of his school-fellows, promising at his return to give them an account of wild beasts ; he had not been four months at the Doctor's, before he was taken ill, and sent home to his parents ; during the time of getting well, several of his school fellows came to see him, and asked him questions, upon which he promised, he would write them an Historical Account of Beasts, Reptiles, Birds and Fishes, and send it to the printer of the Golden Present, that he may make a present of one of them to all good children, they only paying Twopence for the binding.

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Tommy Trimmer, &c.

The L I O N.



THE Lion is a native of Africa,
Cape of Good Hope, and the
East Indies ; those of the Cape are

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the largest, they are of a brown colour, with a long main hanging down their neck, and a very broad face, having a grave aspect; he is in size, as big as a calf, very fierce and bold, all other beast dreading him, therefore he is called the king of the beast; he is of a very generous nature, and when his belly is full, he never meddles with any body. I shall therefore give my little readers an instance of his generosity.

A nobleman at Rome, had a slave that committed a great crime, and fearing his master's displeasure, he flew to the woods for succour; and being tired and fatigued, he sat down on a bank to refresh him: He had not been long there, before a

large lion came up to him, and began to fondle and lick his hands, and then he would hold up one of his fore-paws, this he did several times, and the slave recovering from his fright, beheld a large thorn stick in the lion's paw; the slave then took courage, and pulled the thorn out; the lion finding himself eas'd, lick his hands and face, shewing his gratitude for the ease he had receiv'd, he then left the slave, and at night was caught in the nets of the hunters, he was carried to the amphitheatre, (which was a place built of a round or oval figure, having a number of seats, one above the other, where the emperor and nobility were entertained with different diversions and cruelties; and a repository for the wild beast,) the

slave finding himself in a starving situation, resolv'd to return to his master, he had not gone far, before he was siezed by a band of soldiers, which his master had sent on purpose: Being brought to Rome, (his master who was a cruel man, and there being no law for slaves) ordered him for the diversion of the amphitheatre. The time being come that he was to be tore to pieces by lions, the emperor and the nobility assembled, and being seated, the unhappy slave was brought in, and the lion let loose, which happened to be same as he had met in the woods; the lion had no sooner smelt him, than he began to lick his hands and face, and shewing the greatest fondness imaginable; the emperor and no-

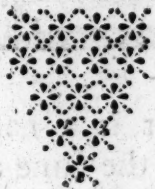
bility were astonished, expecting he would be tore to pieces every minute; the slave through agony and pain, fell to the ground, the emperor seeing a thing so uncommon, ordered the lion to be put in his den, and use proper means to bring the slave to himself, which no sooner was done, then the emperor ordered him to be brought before him, when the slave gave the emperor a full account of all his transactions, which pleased the emperor so well, that he ordered him a sum of money, the lion, and his freedom; the lion was shewed in Rome, several years.

*The* JACKALL.

THE Jackall, or lion's provider, so called from the great respect he has for his sovereign, the lion ; for after prowling for prey, and

finding it, immediately gives notice to the lion, not offering to touch it himself until the lion is done.

The Jackall is about the size of a fox dog, with a long sharp nose like a rat, and also a long tail; his skin is covered with black shaggy hair, and is not much unlike the raccoon. This beast chiefly inhabits about the same place as the lion, and is a scarce animal.





The T I G E R.



THE Tiger is a native of hot climates, the same as the lion; they are of a dark brown colour,

their heads are like a cat, with long whiskers, they are about the size of a mastiff, very strong, and springs on their prey with great agility; they are very ferocious, and often dispute their courage with the lion in battle; but for want of strength, comes off with the worst; they will attack any thing that comes in their way, though after they have killed it, will go their way, and leave it a prey for other beasts.



The



The E L E P H A N T.



THE Elephant is found in India, and the interior parts of Africa, and several at the Cape of Good Hope, though in Africa far more numerous; it is a beast of a large

bulk, and amazing strength, they are, when full grown, about ten or twelve feet high. and will carry a tower on their back, that will hold fourteen or sixteen men armed; besides one on his neck, that directs him which way he wants him to go, he being armed with a long lance. They were formerly much used in war, and of great use, being used to beat down the rank of them they were attacked by, and are so furious, that they will take up with their trunk, horse and man, and beat them to the ground, and trample them to death. They are now not used, since the use of fire-arms is become so general; being now kept for grandeur by the nabobs of the East; when they go to war, they

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are used to carry their women and riches, they are always kept in the rear, and if the army is put to the rout, they most generally become a prize to the conqueror, being very slow. They are of a mouse colour, short hair, their tail is like an ass, and their head is like an hog, tapering down to their trunk, which is about two feet long, with which they will draw up a pail of water, then turning it round, discharges it into their mouth ; they have large long teeth, two of which sticks out at the side of their trunk, which are amazing long ; some of the old ones being five or six feet long, and can rip up any thing they come near, they are a harmless, and very sagacious beast, but when affronted, very furious.

I shall give my reader an instance of the sagacity of a young one, that was made a present to the Queen. Several persons being admitted to see it, among the rest, a young man who had some apples in his pocket, the beast smelling them, would have put his trunk into his pocket, the young man observing this, took one out, and offered it to him, and then drew it away, which he did several times, which so exasperated the beast, that strenghtening his trunk, struck him such a blow on his breast, as throwed him two yards, and laid him speechless; and he was a long time before he was sensible where he was.



The B E A R.



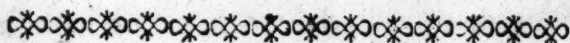
THE Bear is of cold climates, and two sorts, one white, and larger than the other, which is found at Greenland ; and are often caught on the ice, and brought to England

to be fattened, and killed for the fat. The next is brown or black, found in most cold countries, and are not a fierce cruel beast, living chiefly on herbage and fruit, and while they can get either, forsake flesh. It is reported by most writers, that in winter they live by licking their paws, but it is a false notion: A bear is known to be fond of honey, and when the winter sets in, they go in search of it, which they find in hollow trunks of trees, and finding the bees settled by the cold, they ascend up, and getting down their hinder parts into the hollow, and sticking their fore-paws in the top, work themselves up and down, working the honey into their fur, which is very thick; they then retire

to their hole, and lick themselves, and will partly live the whole winter through, but if the season last long, they will come down from the woods in great numbers into the villages, and take away children, or what they can find. The bear is a furly beast, but if fed and not ill used, are harmless ; they have a long head, and nose like a pig, their tender part is their head, for if you strike them but a slight blow, it will instantly kill them ; they have long claws to their fore feet, but none to their hinder ones ; their skins fetch a good price. In parts of Germany, they catch this animal to make dancing bears of them, as they term it, and get a great price for them. The method they use to make them

so is, they have a small room, the bottom of which is thin cast iron ; being contrived to put a fire underneath, they make it warm, and tying a thick piece of leather on the bottom of their hinder feet, then a man begins to play the pipe and tabor ; the beast finding the heat come to his fore paws, gets up on his hinder ones, then they pull him round and round ; this they do six or eight times a day, for several weeks, till the beast being used to it, will get up as soon as he hears the music ; they then sell them for dancing bears.





The W O L F.



THE Wolf is found in most cold countries, they are about the size of a mistiff, shaggy hair, generally of a dark brown colour, with

a sharp head and nose, they have long whiskers, and are a very strong scented beast; they have long tails, with long hair hanging down, they are very ravenous, and commonly herd together in great number, and in hard weather when they cannot find food, they will eat one another. In Hungary, and parts of Germany, they are so numerous in the woods and forests, that in hard weather, they will come down into the towns to the number of two or three hundred, and carry off every thing they can lay hold of, men, women, or children; they are looked upon as the cruelest beast, for if one gets among a flock of sheep, he is not contented till he has killed them all, and then leaves them. The wolves

were very numerous in England formerly, until King Edward the I. laid a tax on every man, that if he did not produce the head of a wolf once a year, he should pay a fine of four-pence ; which was a very heavy tax at that time, when money was scarcely known ; but it did not last any more than that year, for the tax being so heavy, obliged many thousands to go in pursuit of them, and made those who did not, pay a good price. Thus England was cleared from those cruel beasts.





The F O X.



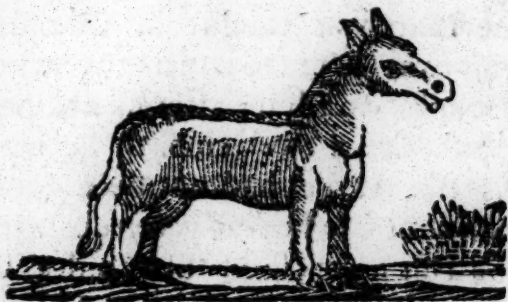
THE Fox is found in most countries, but in North America they are very numerous; for the fox-skins that are annually exported

from America to England, exceeds one hundred thousand; there is different coloured foxes, the red, grey, white and silver; the silver are the scarcest and most valuable; they are a sly cunning artful beast, though they are small, being about the size of a large cat; they have a long sharp nose like a hedge-hog, and do a deal of mischief to the farmers in England, who breeds poultry for markets, for they will watch for several nights to get an opportunity to get into their roost, and when they do, they kill every one they come nigh; they would be very numerous if the gentlemen were not to hunt them every winter, and they give the longest chace of any four footed beast, running in and out

forty or fifty miles, they are so cunning that they will lead the dogs a circle of twenty miles from their hole, and return another way back to it, they are the craftiest animal that is, and an instance we have of one that was caught in Cheshire, who was kept to turn the wheel belonging to a spit; after he had been kept about a twelvemonth he made his escape, he had not been gone a month before he was given chase too, and run a course of fifty miles, but being closely pursued, he made to the house from which he broke loose; and there being only a half door or hatch, he jump'd over and run to the place where he used to be kept, thus he saved his life by his cunning.

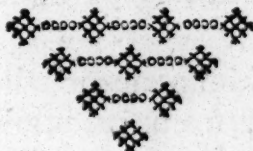


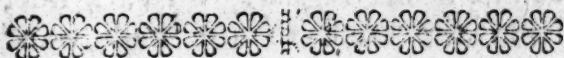
The wild ASS of ARABIA.



THE Wild Ass is only found in Arabia, they are rather bigger than the common Ass, their skin is covered with hair like the horse, and some of them has beautiful

streaks of black and white, which comes down regularly on each side, from the back to the belly, and even their tail and ears is marked in the same regular manner, which makes some of the natives lay nets to catch them, as they fetch a good price ; they are very fierce, and will bite their keepers if their heads was not chained within a yard of the ground, and there is no possibility of riding or even taming them.





The MOUNTAIN CAT.



THE Mountain or wild Cat, so called from its inhabiting the mountains, is found in Siberia, it is

of the size of a common large house cat, of a brown or tabby colour, and it is imagined to have been the house cat, but living on birds and wild fowls which they catch about the mountains, and being from sociable society, has imbibed their natural instinct, which is that of the tiger, for they couch after, and spring on their prey in like manner; the cat in general is of a fierce nature, and it is by their being brought up in the house makes them so tame, but if once they can get into a dark place or church vault, which is not much frequented, and where there is plenty of vermin for their subsistence, their ferociousness will return, and it is dangerous to be near them,

and an impossibility to ever tame or keep them in a family.

The cat is a useful domestick in a family, and when kept in their proper place, are a serviceable animal ; but grown people to make them their companion, is odious as well as dangerous ; an instance out of many I shall give my reader. A few years ago a maiden lady at the west end of the town, had a favourite cat, and she used to let it sit on the arm of her chair when at meals, and always gave it the first piece she cut ; but one day she accidentally put the first piece she cut into her own plate ; the offended animal immediately flew upon her, and before any person could come to her assistance, both her eyes were

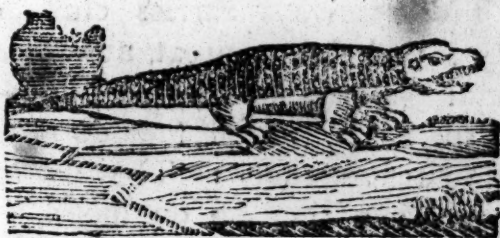
torn out, and her face a shocking spectacle, and they were obliged to kill the cat, before they could get it from off her throat, and she expired, in the most excruciating pain ; thus died a lady, who if she had kept the cat in its proper place, might have been of service, and she preserved her life for many years. A cat should never be suffered in a room where young children sleep, for the many instances we daily hear of, for most children when young, are subject to convulsions, and the cat when young, has a deal of their natural instinct about them, and on the change of weather they will jump and spring in an amazing manner, and it is dangerous to be

in the room with them, for the cat for the sake of the warmth, gets close to the child's face, and it is imagined that the cat perceiving the child's eyes to open and shut, takes it for play, and they being nimble with their paws, and their talons sharp, draws blood of the child, which brings on their ferocity, and several children have had their eyes torn out, other instances of their laying close to children's mouths, and drawing their breath till they are suffocated, neither should children be suffered to play with them.





The C R O C O D I L E.



THE Crocodile is chiefly found in Asia, and are numerous about the Nile, they are amphi-

bious, and do great mischief on land and water ; on the latter, they will attack people in boats, lying on the water like a trunk of a tree, and as the boat comes near them, they rise themselves up, and if not repulsed, will overset it, and the people falls a prey to his voraciousness ; but the traders on the Nile, who are used to them, always carries clubs or pikes, and kill a great number of them. There are people hired to destroy them, which they do in the following manner : They watch them when they go on shore, and waiting till they go to sleep, (which they soon do,) they will snore so loud, that they are heard for half a mile ; they then go with clubs, and knock them on the head, which

soon kills them. When after their prey on shore, they go backwards up a tree, and twist their tails round it, then they hang down till their prey comes by, they then spring upon it, and before they kill it, make a crying noise, and devours it. They are of a dark brown colour, their back has lumps like scales, rather greenish; the tail which runs gradually from their body, is of amazing length, their head is very long, in shape like a pike; the old ones will measure from head to tail, eighteen or twenty feet; their legs are not above ten or twelve inches long, they move very quick, but if dogged round trees, are soon lost.



The RATTLE-SNAKE.



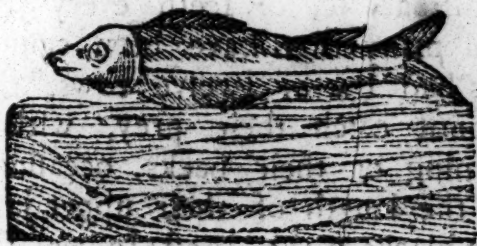
THE Rattle-snake is found in America, and the East Indies ; they are of amazing length, mea-

furing from fifteen to twenty feet
 and upwards; they are of a light
 brown colour, their heads very long,
 on their back, at the distance of six
 or eight inches, there are round
 lumps like the back bone of a large
 fish, which is hollow; and when
 they spring from one place to
 another, they make a loud hollow
 sound, not much unlike a rattle,
 from whence they take the name
 of Rattle-snakes; and from their
 noise they lead many unwearry tra-
 vellers into the woods, to see from
 whence the noise proceeds; and by
 this means they fall a victim to his
 voracious jaws The Rattle-snake
 is a very subtil reptile, it will coil
 itself into different forms to decoy

its prey, which is chiefly deer, buffalo's, and large birds, which it catches on the trees, and are so nimble that no beast that comes any thing near can escape him ; for he covers such amazing quantity of ground at every spring, that he is sure of his prey. The buffalo, which is about the size of an ox, and very swift and fierce, becomes his chief prey ; for the snake coiling himself in the tops of trees, and the buffalo coming to graze near the tree, he instantly springs upon it, and twisting himself round and round the buffalo, and with his amazing strength, breaks every bone of him, and continues so doing, till he has quite emaciated the whole carcase, he then eagerly gorges the whole.



The S H A R K.



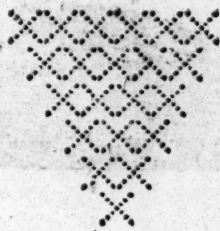
THE Shark is found chiefly in the West Indies, where they are very numerous ; they are about

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five or six feet long an upwards, in shape like another fish, except the head, which is very large, and the upper jaw extending eight or ten inches over the other ; they have a strong scent, and will follow a sickly ship several days ; they are a fish very voracious, and will bite a man in two ; for they have an additional set of teeth every year, and many that have been caught, has had ten or twelve rows, they cannot catch their prey, without turning on their backs, occasioned by the length of their upper jaw ; the blacks in the West Indies, that can swim well, will go in chace of them, and while they are turning themselves, they stick a large knife into them, which makes them swim

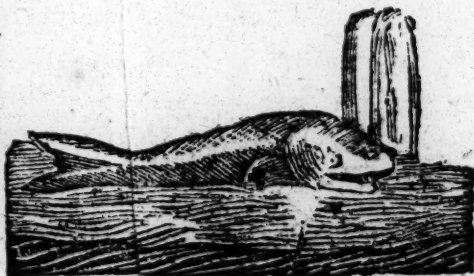
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on the top ; and the blood that comes from them, draws other sharks after them ; which makes great diversion to the spectators on shore.





The W H A L E.



THE Whale is found in Greenland and the North Seas; it is the largest fish that swims,

measuring sixty or seventy feet and upwards, and equal in proportion is the body; the head is remarkably large, as the jaw bones when put upright, a broad wheel waggon may pass through; their fins are very long, which makes whale bone when boiled and skined, and will measure nine or ten feet; they are chiefly caught for their oil and bone: but there are two sorts, one called the spermacete whale, from which they get the fat or spermacete, used for medecines; they are not near so large, nor so advantageous as the other: for the encouragement of the Greenland fishery, there is a premium allowed of three hundred pounds, to each ship that goes this voyage;

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which makes many venture in this trade, as the money pays for the voyage, and they are always sure of men, as it is a great protection to them, as it protects the men for a year in the time of war : The way they catch this fish is ; the ships in this trade, generally sails from England about February or March to these seas, when they are in the least danger of the ice ; each ships has four boats, and each boat four rovers and an harpooneer ; who stands in the bow of the boat with a harpoon fastened to a coil of cord, measuring three or four hundred fathom ; and as soon as they see the whale come to the surface, playing and throwing up the water through his nostrils, which he does thirty or

forty feet high; they row up to him, avoiding not to come near his tail, which would endanger their being drowned, and the boat being beat to pieces. When they have got near the side of them, the harpooner strikes the harpoon with all his strength into the shoulder of the fish, which strikes immediately to the bottom; the harpooner then stands with a pole ax to cut the line away, in case there should not be enough, as they are in danger of being pulled under water, as the fish strikes with such force after he is wounded; the boats then row after the stream of blood, which comes from the wound, and after the fish has spent himself some time, he comes up to

the surface for air ; they then go along side of him, and strike another harpoon into him, or two if they can, thus they continue until the fish has quite spent himself, it then comes up and lays upon the surface of the water like a log, then the boats tow it along side the ship, and there make it fast ; they then proceed to cut it up, the harpooneers that cuts up the fish, has boots, in the bottom of which, is long sharp spikes, to keep them from slipping off, they then begin to cut with long knives made on purpose, a large deep hole in the shoulder, into which abundance of oil flows in, they then bucket it out, and put into butts, and when it is done draining, they cut up the fish into large pieces, and put into

butts, and brought to England ; where it is boiled and the oil drawn away and clarified.

The whale though so large a fish, is said to have the least swallow of any, and if it were to swallow but a herring, it would be choak'd.

It has been doubted among many learned men, whether the whale



could be the fish that swallowed Jonah ; (the swallow being so small)

but I would not have my little readers entertain the least doubt of any passage in the Holy Writ, as nothing is impossible with God, who formed the world out of nothing, and made every living creature, and



formed man out of the dust of the earth ; and breathed in his nostrils the breath of life.



The E A G L E.



THE Eagle is the finest and largest
bird of the feathered creation,
therefore it is called the King of the

birds: It is of a very cruel nature, and will attack any thing that comes in its way if they want food; they are found in most warm countries, about the cliffs of rocks, but the largest is found at the Cape of Good Hope; some of them will measure from wing to wing, nine or ten feet, and when they stand upright, are four or five feet high; they chiefly live on small birds, and reptiles that are about the rocks, but if they run short, they will attack large beasts, and will often carry away a whole sheep at a time, they are so strong in their claws; and when in number will often attack oxen and horses. They are of a dark brown colour, and are so strong in their talons, that it is almost death to

whatever they strike; and have a strong scent after human flesh, and assemble in large numbers after sickly armies, and after they have buried their dead, work the bodies out of the ground. There is a barbarous and cruel custom with the natives of the Cape, that is, when their parents is rendered infirm, and past getting their own support, to assemble their friends and relations, and take their infirm parent to a desert place, and taking their final leave, think they have done an act of charity, and leave them; and before the next morning, they are sure to be devoured, and none but their bones remain.

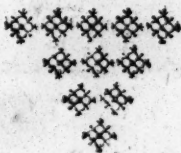


The VULTURE.



THE Vulture is a large bird, not so large as the Eagle, but as voracious ; and in general acts in

confort with them, having the same instinct in their nature, and found in the same places. They are a very upright bird, about two or three feet high, but their wings are not half so large as the Eagle's, and they have not such strong talons, but very strong in their beak, for the beast they once fasten upon, is sure to fall a victim to them.





The H A W K.



THE Hawk is found in all places where there a quantity of small birds, on which they prey; and

were formerly a great sporting bird for the noblemen of England, who kept them for hawking, bringing them up tame, so that they could make them fetch down any bird they saw. There are two sorts, the largest is called the Buzzard Hawk, the other is not half so large, not being larger as a pidgeon, the other as large as a fowl. They are of a brown colour, and have small talons, and sharp beaks, and siezes their prey like the Eagle.

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